



Office of Health Policy and Program Support

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November 14, 2007

AGENDA ITEM 4

TO: MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE

- I. SUBJECT:** California Regional Health Information Organization
Emergency Room Data Transfer Overview
- II. PROGRAM:** Health Benefits
- III. RECOMMENDATION:** Information Only
- IV. BACKGROUND:**

At the October 16, 2007 Health Benefits Committee meeting, the Committee Chair directed staff to include a presentation on the California Regional Health Information Organization (CalRHIO) at the November HBC meeting. Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) develop and implement health care information exchange (HIE) systems for specific regional areas. HIE systems provide efficient access to electronic medical records.

CalRHIO is a non-profit organization founded in 2005, based in San Francisco. CalRHIO is building a statewide HIE system to enable physicians to securely, electronically access patient information when and where they need it.

In March 2007, CalRHIO conducted an Request for Proposal process and selected two technology firms (Medicity and Perot Systems) to develop a statewide HIE called the CalRHIO HIE Utility Service. In addition, Hewlett Packard will participate in strategy development, infrastructure design and deployment, and implementation services.

CalRHIO will implement the HIE Utility Service in two phases: phase one will enable a physician treating a patient in a hospital emergency department to view the patient's medication history and real-time laboratory results, online, through a secure Internet portal; and phase two will enable authorized providers in physician offices and community clinics to electronically access additional information from local hospitals, pharmacies, labs, and clinics.

Dr. Donald Holmquest, CalRHIO President and CEO will make a presentation about CalRHIO and this initiative at the November 14, 2007 Health Benefits Committee meeting. The attachment provides additional information submitted by CalRHIO.

V. STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports CalPERS Strategic Plan Goal 12 – “Engage and influence the health care marketplace to provide medical care that optimizes quality, access, and cost.”

VI. RESULTS/COSTS:

This is an information item only.

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Attachments